

MEMORANDUM

TO: Air Pollution Control Advisory Board (APCAB)

FROM: Chris Schroeder, Air Quality Program Supervisor

DATE: July 27, 2016

RE: Modifying the Mayor's Performance Indicator – Environmental Quality – Maintaining Good Air Quality

As part of the Mayor's outcome-based budgeting effort, performance indicators were developed to help measure the City's progress toward certain City goals. Related to environmental quality, one of the goals is to prevent human exposure to environmental hazards: water, air, food, and waste management.

Specific to air quality, the performance indicator established initially was to maintain "good" air quality at least 90% of days measured. The "good" air quality refers to the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) air quality index (AQI). LLCHD chose to use the "good" AQI category for the air quality performance indicator because Lincoln had historically met this level the vast majority of the time. The green or "good" category corresponds to AQI values between 0 and 50 and this category indicates that the air is safe for everyone to breathe. The chart below depicts the data for the current air quality performance indicator from FY 2007 through FY 2016. With exception of FY 2010, between FY2007 through FY 2012, we were able to maintain "good" air quality for at least 90% of the days measured.

However, an important change occurred in January 2013. The EPA strengthened the national ambient air quality standard for the primary annual PM 2.5 standard from 15 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ to 12 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$. This in turn changed how the AQI is calculated for monitored PM 2.5 concentrations. Previously, days with monitored concentrations of 15 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ or less were identified as "good" air quality days. Now, with the strengthened standard, days with monitored concentrations of 12 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ or less are "good" air quality days. As shown in the chart below, starting in FY 2013 through FY 2016, it has proven difficult to meet the current performance indicator for air quality. However, the levels of PM 2.5 were still well below the National Ambient Air Quality Standard, which is a health based standard, with only a few exceptions.

Relative to the air quality index, measured air pollutant concentrations that correspond to an AQI value of 100 or less are considered to be in the "good" or "moderate" category. The "moderate" or yellow category is AQI values from 51-100 and indicates

that air quality is acceptable for the public but there may be concern for a very small number of unusually sensitive people to this level of air pollution. An AQI of 100 or less means that the air quality meets the National Ambient Air Quality Standard, which are set at levels that protect the public from health effects, including sensitive populations such as children, the elderly and people with chronic health conditions. However, they are not protective for every single individual that may have unique sensitivities.

We are concerned that using our current performance standard may lead some to conclude that Lincoln's air quality is not good, when in fact, it complies with the National Ambient Air Quality Standards. We do not want to confuse the public, policy makers, or elected officials.

Given this, we are proposing to change the performance indicator for air quality to the following:

Maintain air quality to ensure that all days monitored demonstrate compliance with the EPA's National Ambient Air Quality Standards.

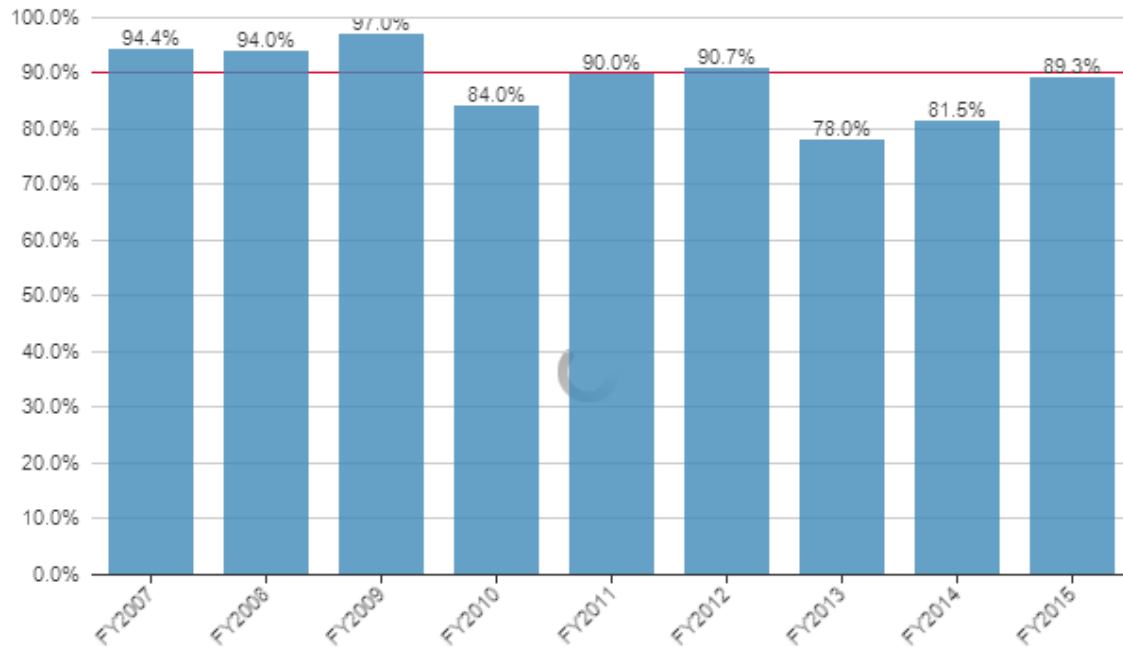
Continuing our Air Quality Program's important work of conducting compliance inspections, issuing air quality operating and construction permits, monitoring air quality, investigating air quality complaints, and initiating enforcement actions will assist with meeting or exceeding this proposed air quality performance indicator.



Environmental Quality

GOAL 2: PREVENT HUMAN EXPOSURE TO ENVIRONMENTAL HAZARDS: WATER, AIR, FOOD AND WASTE MANAGEMENT

Maintain "good" air quality at least 90% of days measured



Source: Health Department EQ Goal2 4/6/2016